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GENERAL ORDERS,  
No. 3.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, January 3, 1863.*

The following Act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned :

[PUBLIC—No. 5.]

AN ACT to facilitate the discharge of disabled soldiers from the army, and the inspection of convalescent camps and hospitals.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there shall be added to the present medical corps of the army eight medical inspectors, who shall, immediately after the passage of this act, be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to their rank when so selected, but with sole regard to qualifications, and who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments now authorized by law to officers of that grade.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the officers of the medical inspector's department shall be charged, in addition to the duties now assigned to them by existing laws, with the duty of making regular and frequent inspections of all military general hospitals and convalescent camps, and shall, upon each such inspection, designate to the surgeon in charge of such hospitals or camps all soldiers who may be, in their opinion, fit subjects for discharge from the service, on surgeon's certificate of disability, or sufficiently recovered to be returned to their regiments for duty, and shall see that such soldiers are discharged or so returned. And the medical inspecting officers are hereby empowered, under such regulations as may be hereafter established, to direct the return to duty, or the discharge from service, as the case may be, of all soldiers designated by them.

Approved December 27, 1862.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

NLM